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# SOCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF  
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15c

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Best in Australia

Red Tulips

CONTINENTAL  
CHOCOLATES

## Life and death dished out freely by NSW Executive

— By PAUL DEAN —

In a totally unexpected move, the NSW Executive last week proposed the expulsion of Canterbury, Polonia and Yugal.

According to a communique, their sins have been accumulated debts, lack of home ground and inadequate administration.

However, the Council begged to disagree with its Executives and voted against the proposed expulsion.

With some cynicism one could say that their death sentence has been commuted to life imprisonment — to be spent in the NSW Federation.

May God have mercy on their souls...

This was only the second time that a Federation Executive has tried to get rid of a club on such charges.

A few years ago Croatia were the intended victims and were saved by one single vote.

It is interesting to note that the same Andy Burton is the president of Canterbury who, only a few months ago, was created the Federation's first Life Member.

Two hours after moving Canterbury's expulsion, the Executive warmly recommended the election of Walter Sternberg as another Life Member — the same Sternberg who only three years ago was all but asked to resign because of his complicity in an illegal national league move.

That, one could say, is the full circle...

• Pictured, left to right, are Hardy (Canterbury), Rafanelli (Yugal) and Krawiarz (Polonia) from the reprieved clubs.



## FRESH STORM LIKELY IF GRIMSON RETURNS

Some Executive members have pledged to resign — if Tom Grimson is re-elected to their ranks.

NSW Federation President, Jim Bayutti, revealed this after last week's Council meeting.

Grimson and Andy Burton are the only two candidates for the fifth Executive seat, vacated by the recent resignation of Grimson himself.

Early this year three Executives were on the point of refusing their election and walking out of the room when John Thomson was also elected with them.

Later they changed their minds and stayed on — as did Thomson.

If Tom Grimson stands, his re-election can be regarded as a foregone conclusion.

It will be interesting to see if the three Executives will, in fact, resign.

## 'PERMIT PLAYERS' LIKELY IN VIC.

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

John Oiphant who recently resigned as chairman of Slavia but remains a delegate of the club, has been unanimously re-elected as chairman of the State League Management Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Management of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Mike Weinstein has been re-elected chairman of the Board of Management with John Gorton also retaining his post as deputy-chairman.

Deposed from the Board of Management is Dean Melidonis, the South Melbourne Hellas secretary who was treasurer of the VSF.

New treasurer is Enver Begovic of Croatia.

George Sawczak of Lions takes the place of Dean Melidonis as a member of the Board of Management.

\* \* \*

Big changes are expected in the rules and set-up of next year's Dockerty Cup.

The chairman of this competition, Piko Pavlovich, said the rules were outdated and riddled with loopholes.

A postal ballot will decide if the recommendations suggested by Pavlovich and his sub-committee are accepted.

One important recommendation is that entry should not be compulsory.

\* \* \*

A motion by Altona Soccer Club that match permits be allowed so that a club can give a short trial period to a player without registering him was deferred after the Board of Management, through their chairman, Michael Weinstein, said it would be advisable to study how this works in various overseas countries before adopting the proposal. Altona withdrew their motion for this season on the basis of Weinstein's remarks.

\* \* \*

Andy Kun was re-elected a vice-president of the VSF for another two years. Tommy Burns remains the senior vice-president of the VSF.

## Specials inside

A report — and more comments — on last week's NSW annual general meeting appear on page 2.

Lou Gautier's Olympic flash-backs and special report on French soccer appear on pages 4 and 5.

## Ampol start Jan. 29

The 1969 Ampol Cup is scheduled to kick off on January 29.

All 12 First Division clubs will take part, playing in two groups.

The final is set down tentatively for March 9. After that the NSW winner will meet its Victorian counterpart on March 19 and 23, once in Sydney and once in Melbourne.

The NSW championship will start on March 30 and end with the Grand Final on September 28.

A planned pre-season competition for Second Division clubs has been called off for lack of interest.

Sydney fans will pay more in 1969 for their soccer than ever before.

Admission charges to First Division matches have been increased to 60c. to the outer ground and an additional 20c. for the stands.

Second Division charges went up from 30c. to 40c. Falling in line with a recent FIFA ruling, two players will be replaceable at any time during a match.

Both can be field players or one can be a goalkeeper. Replacements can be made without injury.

## AMERICAN DREAM EXPENSIVE FLOP

The ball is over: American National Professional League has suspended its operations "for at least three years", after only one season.

The vast NBC television network has cancelled its multi-million sponsorship and the rich backers got fed up with pumping fortunes into clubs that simply wouldn't draw.

Some of the clubs are in the process of disbanding while others will try to exist by inviting over-

seas teams for friendly matches.

The future of literally hundreds of overseas players, coaches and managers is up in the air.

Dozens have already returned to Britain, Germany and South American countries.

It seems that the big and bold American adventure has once again proved that in soccer you must grow from grassroot levels and even millions of dollars cannot fix shortcuts.

**Take your pick:**

# COMEDY OR TRAGEDY— SOCCER PROVIDES BOTH

— By PAUL DEAN —

The traditional post-season convulsions of Sydney soccer this year reached record proportions.

They started when the NSW delegates to an ASF meeting walked out in a huff, threatened to break away from the national organisation, to make public certain "secret documents", to issue writs against others; in brief, to blow the ASF "sky high".

They followed when, possibly encouraged by this "daring" attitude of their Executive, six Sydney clubs secretly conspired to forge what they nobly called the Australian National Soccer League.

And they halted, at least temporarily, at last week's annual general meeting where, as usual, direct confrontation produced more cold feet among delegates than you could find in a nudist Eskimo colony.

Before drawing any conclusions, let's run over the events of the last 10 days or so.

The first bomb exploded when news came from Melbourne that six Sydney clubs — Hakoah, APIA, Pan Hellenic, Prague, Croatia and South Coast — had entered into a formal agreement with four Melbourne clubs over the formation of what, despite its fancy name, was to be an inter-city league.

The plan was not new; for some time now a few Sydney clubs have been hankering for such a league.

Significantly, the initiative didn't come from the two clubs with the largest potential following — but from others who were and still are anxious to benefit the most from them.

No matter what you think of the merits or otherwise of an inter-city league, the fact remains that the "six" made their move secretly, without informing either the Executive or the other clubs.

They were ready to desert their fellow clubs at the drop of a drachma, to leave them to their own resources in the dubious hope of discovering happier hunting grounds.

## DESERTION AND MUTINY

But they also showed incredible disloyalty to their own Executive; as if they told them that we're not happy with your methods, we'll run our own show from now on.

This was at best desertion, at worst mutiny; the penalty for the latter, on high seas, is hanging.

Here, they were fined the princely sum of \$100 plus a "severe reprimand" . . .

The action of the "six" quickly mobilised all other Sydney clubs who, with amazing speed, called for a meeting two days later.

The mood of that meeting was dark. Following some pieces of oratory it was unanimously decided that the deserted clubs would resist; if they get no satisfaction from the Executive, they would even challenge them.

Brave words . . .

By the following night, facing their Executives, many delegates lost their nerves.

Gone was the revolutionary spirit and gone the unanimity; with a masterful stroke, the Executive had the rebels divided: it proposed the immediate expulsion of Canterbury, Polonia and Yugal on rather flimsy charges. A counter-offensive of considerable brilliance, one thought.

It was, apart from the timing, the surprising brutality of the recommendation that came as a shock.

Yugal, for one, were not even called before the Executive to "please explain," they were tried without a hearing.

None was offered help; none was told what to do after their expulsion. What of their players, commitments — and debts?

Theirs was not an ordinary court case; it was martial law procedure.

All three, said the Executive, had debts; in some cases even cheques had bounced. A terrible crime, indeed — except that all clubs have, at one stage or another, experienced such financial difficulties.

Even now, one could perhaps find some other clubs who live under greater stress — and have bigger debts.

# TRANSFER DEADLINES

Besides the controversial issues reported elsewhere in this newspaper, last week's AGM also dealt with other problems.

The Council made certain changes in the transfer rules.

It declared a no-transfer period in any one season after July 15 and before November 30.

After July 15 no players can be registered from local, interstate or overseas clubs.

However, the rules have been changed regarding the clearance of players for overseas clubs.

In future, players can be cleared overseas at any time of the year.

All this didn't quite achieve what has been proposed: to prevent clubs from

bringing overseas players off matches which must here for a few weeks only.

A club, for example, can still import a player and register him on July 14 — and clear him back to his overseas club by the end of September, after the Grand Final.

In all future cup or play-

bringings overseas players off matches which must here for a few weeks only.

If that, even after extra times, fails to produce a winner, either penalties or toss of a coin will decide.

Whether it is toss or penalties, the amended rules don't appear to say.

# Young lions start to show claws

Selecting the 10 outstanding young First Division players — the "young lions", so to speak — in Sydney this year was no easy job.

There was an abundance of exciting prospects in almost every club in 1968 — a year which produced a bountiful harvest of youthful talent.

We finally selected the following 10 players as the most representative of this year's rich crop, and listed them in what we think is their order of merit:

### GARY MANUEL (Prague)

Without a doubt the pick of this season's "young lions", Prague's forceful forward confirmed himself in 1968 as one of the country's top prospects.

Still far from perfect despite his excellent potential, Manuel, in a couple of years, if he maintains his present rate of progress, could emerge as a dashing forward in the English professional mould.

He is one player who could make the grade in British soccer with proper coaching.

Forcefulness, however, is not his only quality. He can "read" the game and has the knack, despite his youth, to create openings and, more important, to pounce on the slightest half-chance.

At the moment he still misses too many goals through precipitation, but this is largely due to understandable immaturity.

### RAY GARDINER (Hakoah)

This Scottish lad joined Hakoah unheralded and unsung early in the season, but within four weeks he had established himself as a first team regular and one of the vital cogs in the formidable, championship-winning Hakoah defence.

Gardiner reminds one irresistibly of the young Pat Hughes on the field.

Together with Gary Manuel, he is undoubtedly the most exciting teenager in Sydney First Division soccer.

### LARRY ARMITAGE (Prague)

Success has come quickly to the slightly built Prague winger, who at 17 and a half, was selected against Dallas Tornado and Cardiff City this year.

Regrettably injury-prone, Armitage at the moment only lacks physique to emerge as one of our top forwards.

Once he adds a few inches and a few pounds, we would be very surprised if he didn't hold a mortgage on one of the wing positions in the NSW team.

### TERRY WOODS (Croatia)

One of the most adaptable of the current crop of young Sydney stars, Woods is a utility player par excellence.

With Croatia he showed that every position comes naturally to him.

At fullback or half he blended perfectly into the highly methodical and disciplined Croatia defensive set-up, and when he was moved into attack he proved his worth with some vital goals.

Though no longer a teenager, Terry Woods is new to "big time" soccer and only made the grade in Croatia after stagnating as a reserve grade defender with Canterbury for some time.

### JIM FRASER (Polonia)

Long in the shadow of Ron Corry, in Canterbury

and then Croatia, Fraser really came of age this year when he joined Polonia after a brief sojourn in Adelaide.

Rated as one of our greatest goalkeeping prospects a few years back, the Polonia custodian gave his team sterling service in 1968 and kept the experienced Drewniak out of the team.

He was one of the rare satisfactions in an undistinguished year for goalkeepers and may soon be knocking on the door to representative honours if he keeps up the good work next year.

### TONY EDWARDS (Melita Eagles)

The Melita halfback was an unqualified success this year with his new club after starting his career with Cumberland, where he made seven first team appearances last year.

Above-average ball control, solid tackling and astute distribution stamp him as an outstanding prospect.

His 1968 coach, Joe Vlasits, predicts he'll play for Australia one day and compares him to a mini John Watkiss.

### GARY QUESTED (Melita Eagles)

Another of the Melita "whiz-kids" who joined the Eagles from Cumberland in 1968.

Len Quested's son is all set to keep the famous family name in the forefront of Sydney soccer.

Endowed with brilliant ball control, already the equal of his father's, Quested Junior, who's only 17, needs only to build up physically to reach the very top as a winger.

### MANOEL GUERRERO (Croatia)

A talented junior and NSW under-18 representative, the Spanish-born Guerrero burst on the local scene towards the end of the championship when he returned from a brief spell with one of Real Madrid's nursery teams.

He showed enough dash and promise in his seven first team appearances in 1968 to suggest he will be one of Croatia's key forwards next year.

### MIKE ALAGICH (Yugal)

Yugal's fiery inside-forward could soon become more than just "Joe Alagich's young brother".

As from next year he could establish himself as a leading light in his own right, away from his glamorous brother's shadow.

His ball control is already superior to Joe's and though he'll never have his fantastic speed, Mike Alagich seems headed for a successful career.

### FRANK McCUE St. George)

One of the sensations of the NSW under-18 team in New Caledonia in September, St. George-Budapest's Scottish-born teenager is already endowed with superb ball control.

Unfortunately, because of Saint's catastrophic season, he was unable to make a greater impression in club football in 1967, but if he plays in a more efficient, smoother functioning forward line in 1969 he should confirm his exciting potential before very long.

# REVIEW OF SYDNEY TEAMS '68

— By PAUL DEAN —

The slow, sometimes imperceptible process of ageing has finally caught up with APIA in 1968.

For the first time in many years, they failed to play a dominant part on the Sydney scene and missed out on all major honors.

This year's APIA was a far cry from the old vintage. While the spirit was often still there, the team, heavily sprinkled with near-veterans, was no longer capable of sustained brilliance or even consistency.

One doesn't belittle the still considerable qualities of some players by merely pointing out that their dash and brio have worn thin.

Bottalico has been in the team since 1959, Hughes since 1960, Giacometti and Van Blerk since 1962 but Campana, Blue and Wentzel are also getting on in years.

## NO YOUTH

Only Taylor and Campana appeared in all matches — and Campana did this straight after a cartilage operation. A real pro effort, one should add.

APIA, never really noted for successfully grooming youngsters, did not introduce one single new talent this year.

Winger McKinnon became a regular after three years of frustration during which he made a total of only eight appearances.

Another youngster, Campbell has fully ripened and is gradually earning the representative honors that were prematurely bestowed upon him.



FIL BOTTALICO

Di Lonardo, in the sweeper's role, started to look really comfortable, introducing some system in the APIA defence for the first time; but they promptly dropped him and reverted back to a loose WM formation. Why, I'll never know.

Once he was gone, what remained was mainly the fantastic physical strength of Sambrook and the robust, sometimes uncalled for violent approach of Ackerley and Van Blerk.

## NEW ZEST

Keddie and Wentzel failed to pep up the ailing attack where Blue was missing for weeks with injury; Giacometti showed tremendous form reversals and only Campbell's newly found zest and Campana's relaxed, polished craft were permanent assets.

In past years, APIA often cut a dashing picture: the team was always the fittest and strongest in Sydney.

This is no longer true. In fact, quite often in their matches APIA tired towards the end, conceding some expensive goals.

APIA's home ground, the ancient Lambert Park offered few advantages to the home team and even fewer comforts to the visitors.

Beaten once and held to draw three times, the once legendary invincibility of Lambert Park has been shattered.

On at least two occasions a major riot was only inches away — another indication that the days are gone when, in the knowledge that ultimately their team will conquer, the APIA fans could take a few bad decisions here and there.

The change of coaches halfway through the year also did little to boost the morale of the team.

Out went Mike Mazzina and in came Audato Iglesias without the slightest difference to the results.

It was Mazzina's misfortune to take over a team already in steep decline; when the imported Argentines

# APIA'S DECLINE WAS LARGELY EXPECTED

tinians failed to sparkle, the blame was placed at his feet.

It is well known that APIA were among those who would have dearly loved to secure Joe Venglos as coach for next year.

## ORGANISATION

When that fell through, Iglesias, one of the nicest chaps in the business, was retained.

Despite many early promises, APIA's internal reorganisation somehow never set the town on fire.

In actual fact the social club took over control with some new faces emerging from the committee-room

and a few familiar names gradually vanishing.

But the relationship between social club and foot-

ball club, men of bocce and men of the round-ball has remained largely an unhappy one, if one is to give credence to the numerous complaints of officials.

There is no doubt that APIA's future will be determined by the type of leadership the club will develop.

## TAKES TIME

They will have to decide soon whether they intend to run their club with the charming but largely unproductive disorganisation of the "mezzogiorno" or the thoroughness of their industrial north.

Quo vadis, APIA? We

would be surprised if this great club could not resolve its problems.

But it will take time. The team must be rejuvenated and rebuilt, not on sentimental but on logical basis.

APIA would also be well advised to place more faith in young talent in the future — something they have been sadly neglecting in recent years.

The Sydney public is entitled to expect APIA to make more than its fair share of contribution to soccer's overall progress in leadership, playing standard, and playing facilities.

In all these categories there is room for improvement.

# PRAGUE HAS YET TO KEEP ALL PROMISES

Much promised — little delivered. This was Prague in the 1968 season.

This proved clearly that Prague were one of the few Sydney clubs who really enjoyed the benefits of the training facilities of Marks Field.

Joe Venglos, Prague's greatest asset, took full advantage of this.

But these grand shows were almost always followed by fall-backs, disappointments and inexplicable lapses.

Eventually the belief spread that after every excellent performance Prague are due for a stinker.

And they usually delivered, often puzzling people how the same team can undergo such almost metaphysical transformations in seven days?

None of their short-circuits was more dramatic than their 3-0 loss to Hakoah in the play-off series.

Sitting in a box-seat, as it were, all Prague had to do to reach the Grand Final was to avoid a 3-0 or 5-1 defeat.

This, one should say, should be within the scope of just about any First Division team — particularly of one shooting for top honors.

The knock-kneed Raul Blanco, the pale Argentinian with the unlikely look for a soccer player, was the second most vital cog in the Prague machine: his midfield work, tackling and distribution usually set the tempo of his team's attacks.

Whenever either Scheinflug was out of touch or Blanco injured, the effect was quite dramatic: Prague became a very ordinary side.

Out in front the youthful Prague pack showed great potential but little consistency.

Gary Manuel has the talent to become a dreaded goaller — but first he must learn to concentrate better in critical moments near the goalmouth.

If Manuel had converted only a reasonable percentage of his best chances, Prague could have finished up much higher on the table.

Hoggart's work capacity and finesse and Armytage's speed and fast developing "cheek" are other rare assets.

With Molnar's departure and Thorne's transfer, Prague surprisingly left themselves without a steady, regular fourth forward.

Gauto was destined to fill this role but first an injury and later loss of form robbed him of a chance.

Lowry had only few chances; Wilcox, despite a heap of goals, has too many technical handicaps to blend into this line and Ross Manuel received far too few chances to settle down on the wing.

For next year Prague's plans are all but ready: the same squad, the same coach and the same ground. Business as usual.

## Magic hand

Not in the position to raid the transfer market — if anything, they will sell — Prague will once again rely on the magic hands of Venglos to make a palatable brew out of rather ordinary ingredients.

Prague, once the glamor team of Sydney, are a modestly ambitious club.



LES SCHEINFLUG

## Vital lesson

Yet in this crucial test Prague failed badly — and failed mainly in the vital subjects of tactics and good nerves.



RAUL BLANCO

This young, energetic and knowledgeable ex-Bratislava player has, in two years, become Sydney's glamor coach.

It's only fair to say that if Venglos was the conductor — Scheinflug was his first violinist.

This indestructible fellow operated in the role of the withdrawn centre forward — after having excelled at left back, left wing, inside left and left half since 1956.

After this it wouldn't surprise us if, within a year or two, he even kicked the ball with his right foot...

Around Scheinflug, the centrepiece of the Venglos-built edifice, Prague had a happy mixture of experienced and youthful players.

None were "stars" in the loosely used sense of the word; only Armytage gained representative honors, more as a down-payment on a

Their administration is efficient and has been handled by the same three or four people for years; nobody could name a fifth, if he tried.

The Czech support of the club has long ago evaporated and Prague's only chance for survival is a licenced club with steady revenue — something they may be able to obtain pretty soon.

Then — but only then — can they face the future confidently, possibly even recreating their earlier "glory".

Without that, despite even the most selfless sacrifices by the few officials, Prague would be destined to struggle along on a Bata shoestring.

— Paul Dean



## ROUND THE WORLD

### Not quite one-way

Pietro Anastasi's £420,000 transfer from Varese to Juventus has been well publicised. Not so well known have been the other transfer deals Varese have pulled off. Inside-forward Luigi Cresci was sold to Bologna for £260,000. Midfield player Vastola went to Inter-Milan for £88,000. Total proceeds of their summer sale — £768,000. After winning promotion 16 months ago, Varese sold two other players for nearly £200,000. In exactly one year they have netted £1 million.

### Irish departures

Two Irish League managers have recently left their clubs: Tommy Casey of Distillery and Jim Conway of Portadown. Casey has joined Everton as their youth trainer while Conway has moved to Bolton to be assistant trainer-coach.

### Kick in the pants

The English Football League has decreed that in future goalkeepers must wear the same colored shorts as the other 10 players and only their shirts can — must be — of different color. This has created quite a few bitter complaints from goalies — who are superstitious about wearing white shorts.

### One bad Czech?

St. Etienne (France) officials lodged a complaint with UEFA about Czech referee Zdenek Velez who was in charge of their European Cup match against Celtic, which they lost 4-0. They claim they have proof that Velez had taken a bribe.

### Dubious investment

Small London club Queens Park Rangers spend \$35,000 each year on their youth scheme. In the last four years this has produced not one player for their first team.

### Ungrateful fans

Southport directors are annoyed with their fans. They have recently built a modern \$90,000 stand at their Haig Avenue ground — yet their average attendance this season has been a miserable 2,500.

### Roman madness?

AS Roma have offered \$880,000 to Real Madrid for the brilliant Amancio. The bid mystifies most observers not because of its size — but because there is a complete ban on new signing of foreign players in Italy.

### Anfield's record

Liverpool haven't lost a home League match since September 1963 when West Ham beat them at their Anfield ground. In fact, the only match they lost there since was earlier this year when Hungarian Ferencvaros defeated them 1-0 in a European Cup encounter.

### Looking ahead

England is already thinking ahead for the 1970 World Cup. The players will wear aertex shirts which are more sun-absorbent. The FA is also considering a suggestion that they should build a motel for the team at Guadalajara — and sell it after the World Cup.

### Hong Kong's progress

After a long and bitter controversy, Hong Kong has decided to introduce a professional league next season. Before the decision was reached, the warring parties called in both the FIFA and the International Olympic Committee to arbitrate.

One of the most colorful players has departed from the English First Division scene — Cliff Jones, the brilliant Welsh forward of Tottenham; he joined Second Division club Fulham where he will link up with Johnny Hayes, former skipper of England. Over the years Jones played 371 matches for Spurs, scoring 158 goals. He was also capped by Wales on 57 occasions.

Even most of the Fourth Division clubs must envy the affluence of Southern League Cambridge United, who own their own ground and 12 houses, and have nearly 20 full-time professionals.

The recent championship match between Botafogo and Gremio in Brazil started half an hour late. It took the two clubs that long to agree which side should change jerseys, as the colors clashed.

Juventus goalkeeper Sarti has been given the title of "Model Sportsman" by the Italian press.

No one has hit a "hat-trick" against Liverpool in a League match since Jimmy Greaves scored four times at White Hart Lane on April 15, 1963.

During his recent European trip Aldredo Di Stefano, now technical director of Boca Juniors, signed up MTK (Hungary), Rapid (Austria) and Slovan Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) for the next Mar del Plata tournament.

Zaragoza's brilliant young forward, Bustillo, has been signed by CF Barcelona — for a Spanish record fee of \$240,000.

Arbroath and Falkirk are fast losing contact with the others at the tail end of the Scottish First Division.

Although Manchester United are having a poor trot, their fans have remained loyal: their average home gate this season has been 57,000.

Each player of Estudiantes de la Plata which recently won the Intercontinental Cup against Manchester United, received a bonus of \$8,000.

Minella and former forward star Maschio, until recently a pro in Italy, are in charge of the Argentine national side.

Albert Sing the famous German coach may leave Munchen 1860 and return to Switzerland where once he operated with great success.

Nils Liedholm, the great Swedish ex-star now coaching in Italy, has moved from Verona to Monza.

Inter Milan, still desperately searching for a twin striker next to Mazzola, are grooming Spadotto, 18, who scored both their goals against Estudiantes recently.

Peculiar coincidence: in the last round of Polish First Division not one of the seven visiting teams could score a single goal — and only three of the home sides, with four matches ending in 0-0.

FIFA coach Dettmar Cramer considered the Hungarian midfielder, Lajos Szucs from the Ferencvaros club as the best player at the Olympics. "He is world class," said Cramer. "The best forward was Kamamoto of Japan."

Mexico got some solace after their amateur team's failure in the Olympics: their "A" side beat Brazil 2-1 — in Rio.

Joe Wickham, secretary of the Irish FA, died in a Katowice hospital. He became ill during the Poland-Ireland match the day before.

Cagliari and Palermo will represent Italy in the next Mitropa Cup.

Ferencvaros and Ujpest are running neck to neck in the Hungarian championship with Vasas close behind them.

It's odd in how many countries the top scorer of the championship is a foreigner. At this stage this is their tally: In Austria the Danish Bjerregard, in Holland the Swede Hindvall, in Belgium the Hungarian Nagy.

Manchester United's veteran Bill Foulkes, 36, will receive a benefit match this year — after 18 seasons with the club. The opponents will be Manchester City — and all the 63,000 tickets have been sold.

AS Roma have cancelled their proposed tour of Spain around Christmas and have accepted a Turkish invitation instead. "The Turks offered more," said a laconically short announcement.

Mexico will meet Spain in an international in April, in Madrid.

Yugoslavia face an uphill battle to qualify for the 1970 World Cup finals, having lost to Belgium in Brussels and held to a draw by Spain in Belgrade. All this only months after their great display in the European Championship.

Derby City's Malcolm Bramley is the youngest secretary in English League Football: he is 21.

Manchester United's John Aston is making good recovery. He broke a leg early in the season.

Italy will play two games in Mexico against the national team, on January 1 and 5, one at the Azteca Stadium, one in Guadalajara.

Napoli will pay dearly for the temperament of its "tifosi:" the club was fined \$1,000 because at the recent home game against Sampdoria (0-3) the fans were throwing rubbish and bottles on the ground.

Ferrini, skipper of Torino and an Italian international, will have a cartilage removed soon.

Pele has celebrated his 28th birthday recently and he was presented with a six-foot cake before the Santos-Internacional match.

AS Roma's goalie Pizzaballa is now the No. 1 choice for Italy.

A mini-European Cup is planned to link up England, West Germany, Holland and Denmark.

Canada's national team is now touring Scandinavia.

Last year's Greek champions, AEK are 13th only after five rounds.

As usual, Penarol and Nacional have a big lead over the others in the Uruguayan championship.

Southampton's brilliant Welsh centre-forward, Ron Davies is in great demand but any club keen to get him will have to pay a British record fee of £200,000. Red Star Belgrade became the first Yugoslav club ever to win the Mitropa Cup since its inception in 1927. Previous winners were provided by Hungary (11), Czechoslovakia (5), Italy (4) and Austria (4) with the Budapest team Vasas holding the record, as four-time winners.

Former Bratislava star Scherer is now with Kosice — and is the Czechoslovak league's top scorer.

Perfumo, captain of the Argentinian national team, has a vast restaurant in Buenos Aires which accommodates 2,000 people.

Mazurkiewicz, goalkeeper of Penarol in Uruguay, recently kept his goal intact for a total of 986 minutes in championship matches.

It's official: the 1970 World Cup will be staged between May 31 and June 21.

Detmar Cramer suggests a minimum of three weeks acclimatisation period for all European teams at the 1970 World Cup.

Karoly Lakat, coach of the Hungarian team, said he was counting on at least five players from his successful Olympic side to make the full national team.

A top Brazilian club has offered \$80,000 to Kamamoto to sign a professional contract — which the tall Japanese smilingly refused.

Arsenal will soon create a record: next season will see them complete an unbroken run of 50 years in First Division.

Celtic manager Jock Stein was fined \$220 for remarks to the referee after a match.

## SCOREBOARD

**WORLD CUP:** France v. Norway 0-1 (Strasbourg); Scotland v. Austria 2-1 (Glasgow).

**INTERNATIONAL:** Romania v. England 0-0.

**WEST GERMANY:** Hertha BSC v. Munich 1-2; Schalke SV v. Hamburg 2-3; Alemania Aachen v. Borussia Dortmund 0-1; Werder Bremen v. FC Cologne 3-1; Eintracht Frankfurt v. FC Kaiserslautern 2-2; VFB Stuttgart v. Kickers Offenbach 1-0; MSV Duisburg v. Hanover 0-0; Eintracht Brunswick v. Borussia Moenchengladbach 0-0.

**ITALY:** Atalanta (Bergamo) v. Milan 0-0; Bologna v. Napoli 2-1; Inter (Milan) v. Roma 3-1; Cagliari v. Juventus (Turin) 2-1; L. Vicenza v. Fiorentina 0-0; Palermo v. Torino 1-0; Sampdoria v. Varese 4-0; Verona v. Pisa 5-3.

**YUGOSLAVIA:** Belgrade Sarajevo 2-0; Zagreb v. Red Star 1-1; Proleter v. Vojvodina 1-0; Rijeka v. Velez 1-0; Maribor v. Celik 2-0; Zeljeznica v. Vardar 3-1; Hajduk v. Radnicki 2-1; Bor v. Olimpija 0-0; Partizan v. Dinamo 0-2.

**SPAIN:** Granada v. Real Zaragoza 1-0; Barcelona v. Malaga 1-0; Real Sociedad v. Espanol 2-1; Pontevedra v. Eche 0-1; Valencia v. Deportivo Coruna 2-1; Atletico Madrid v. Real Madrid 0-1.

**FRANCE:** Nimes v. Sochaux 3-1; Red Star v. St. Etienne 0-0; Metz v. Monaco 0-0; Rouen v. Marseille 2-1; Nice v. Ajaccio 0-3; Strasbourg v. Nantes 1-0; Rennes v. Valenciennes 1-2; Lyon v. Bordeaux 0-2.

**POLAND:** Gornik v. Stal 0-0; Legia v. Zagłębie 3-0; Polonia v. Szombierki 0-0; Walbrzych v. Odra 1-0; Slask v. Rów 2-0; Wisla v. Katowice 0-0; Ruch v. Pogon 0-0.

**Table:** Gornik 17, Legia 14, Polonia 13 pts.

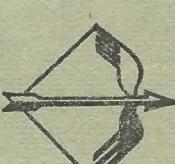
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA:** Slavia v. Inter 0-0; Lokomotiv v. Trnava 2-0; Teplice v. Ostrava 0-0; Pardubice v. Kosice 2-1; Dukla v. Zilina 5-1; Banska v. Sparta 1-0; Slovan v. Trencin 0-0. **Table:** Trnava, Ostrava 10-10, Slovan, Lokomotiv 9-9 pts.

**HUNGARY:** Dunaujvaros v. Vasas 0-1; Ferencvaros v. Csepel 4-0; Ujpest v. Pecs 2-1; SBTC v. Tatabanya 0-0; Szombathely v. Diósgyor 5-0; Győr v. Videoton 2-1; Egyetertes v. MITK 1-1. **Table:** Ujpest, Ferencvaros 37-37, Vasas 36-35.

**SWITZERLAND:** Chaux de Fonds v. Basle 1-1; Lugarno v. Bellinzona 4-0; Lucerne v. St. Gallen 1-3; Servette v. Sion 2-0; Winterthur v. Lausanne 1-1; Young Boys v. Grasshoppers 3-1; Zurich v. Biel 3-5.

**PORTUGAL:** Sporting v. Benfica 0-0; CUF v. Academica 4-3; Guimaraes v. Porto 2-0; Varzim v. Braga 3-3; Leixoes v. Setubal 1-2; Atletico v. Bleenenses 3-1; Sanjoanense v. Tomar 4-1.

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# CROATIA STOLE 1968 SHOW IN VICTORIA

Croatia, the all-conquering team in Victorian soccer in 1968, will go down in the record books as the first team to win all three major competitions in one season.

Surprisingly, however, they failed in the Australia Cup, beaten in the quarterfinals by Hakoah who went on to play sister club Hakoah from Sydney.

Croatia's successes were:

- AMPOL CUP,
- STATE LEAGUE TITLE,
- DOCKERTY CUP.

Scooping the pool in Victoria, they didn't even leave a crumb of comfort for any of the other clubs.

In the Ampol Cup they defeated Slavia to gain revenge for a Dockerty Cup final defeat by Slavia a few years back.

In the State League competition they looked in a commanding position almost all the way through and their superiority was so marked at the finish that they recorded the biggest winning margin ever by finishing seven points ahead of runners-up, Polonia.

Croatia, however, made heavy weather of their Dockerty Cup final and Hellas, who have never had any success at "pot hunting," forced them into a replay before going down in the second match.

In a season where a further decline in the playing standards of State League soccer has gone hand-in-glove with a downward trend in attendances, Croatia were one of the few teams to stop the rot at least in regard to the playing side of the game.

The main ingredients of their success were not hard to find: ability, teamwork, fitness and dedication were four powerful attributes their players possessed.

They were quietly but effectively controlled by coach Michael Kiss whose success in Melbourne is far removed from a similar spell he had coaching Croatia in Sydney.

Top scorer for Croatia over the league and cup season was inside-forward or centre Billy McIntyre who was also the top individual scorer in the Dockerty Cup competition.

A distressing note for Croatia is that McIntyre returns with his wife and family to Scotland this Tuesday (November 18).

In so successful a combine it's an outsize headache to decide the best player.

So if I plump for wing-half Billy McArthur, he was only a shade in front of goalie Mike Kovacek and scoring ace, Billy McIntyre.

This trio were only a nose in front of all their other team-mates.

## POLONIA

One of the glamor teams in the early part of this decade, they faltered badly in 1966 and the following season took a turn for the worse by ending up on ninth position.

To finish runners-up in the league in 1968 was a tremendous come-back and especially when one considers that they had almost half a team of local youngsters playing regularly in the first team.

Polonia have proved more than any other side in the State League over the past few years that local talent with careful nursing can make an imprint even in the top division.

But it was three players, all in the veteran category, Norbert Gajda, Vic Janczyk and Ziggy Gadecki, who steered them on the course as runners-up.

Gajda at either wing or inside-forward was a revelation compared to his form in 1967; Janczyk was, as always, the purveyor and general of the side while Gadecki proved beyond doubt the number one right-winger in State League soccer.

Player-coach Kaz Kowalec stood down for most of the season with a broken arm but made a major contribution to his side's success story from the sidelines.

## SM-HELLAS

A tantalising season for the Greek-sponsored club whose four championship wins in their short existence as a State League club is offset by their remarkable non-success in cup competitions.

However, finishing third on the league ladder was not good enough to satisfy their fans whose numbers reduced while following the fortunes of the club.

A small minority of those who are regulars once again brought disrepute and severe penalties to the club through their misbehaviour.

Finalists in the Dockerty Cup for the second year running, Hellas once again failed to break their hoodoo on reverses in a knock-out competition and to make matters worse, they were humbled by Azzurri (WA) in the Australia Cup.

Fielding three keepers during the season, this position still remains a problem.

The fact that their wing-

men were out of touch for lesser extent Ernie Ackerley were the pick of the rest.

Lou Brocic was replaced as coach by Ron Sawecki who had a previous spell with Hellas during the season.

## HAKOAH

Main claim to fame of the Middle Park side in 1968 is the fact that for the second year in succession they finished in the top four and somewhat surprised the Victoria soccer fraternity by reaching the Australia Cup final.

A fantastic start in the league and almost a repeat of 1967 saw them later gradually lose their grip at the top and say goodbye to their title hopes long before the last game of the season.

In the national cup competition their win over Croatia in the quarterfinals and their great fight-back to KO Prague in the semifinal at Middle Park merited some praise.

Still, Hakoah have two problems. Key players in defence are not only ageing, but slowing up and all season their attack has often misfired through the lack of inside men with punch.

It is problematical if Jim Armstrong, their leading scorer for the past two years, isn't more valuable at inside-forward than centre.

A model of consistency all season, wing-half Alan Stenhouse was their best performer closely followed by Sandy Henderson in goal and Keith Fry on the right-wing — their number one forward.

Bill Walsh, coach of Melbourne's successful 1967 team, took over from Manny Poulakos late in the season.

## LIONS

A struggling side in all their State League existence, Lions, never considered a real threat for honors, turned the corner in 1968 and were only pipped out of a place in the four on goal average.

But it would be idle talk to suggest the Essendon team are on the brink of real success despite their overall improvement.

They have a bit to go yet and some improvement to make both in defence and attack to climb higher.

However, they appear to be on the right track.

One player lifted their side this season — inside-forward Jimmy Rooney whose brilliant ball play brought some much needed class into their attack.

Rooney's performances were fully recognised when he won the Argus Medal and the Travelodge Award — the only two player awards in State League soccer.

Other two Lions stars both in defence were wing-half Gerry Murney and centre-half Steve Walker.

Coach Peter Aldis who has parted company with the club provided a steady effect on the team.

The other seven clubs will be reviewed next week.

# THE FRENCH HAVE THEIR MIND ON OTHER THINGS

— From LOU GAUTIER in Paris —

After watching two matches in Paris it's easy to understand why French soccer has reached such depths of mediocrity.

During my 10 days in Paris I saw a Second Division match between Bataillon de Joinville, a team of national servicemen based in Paris, and Beziers, and the First Division game between Nimes and Ajaccio, the Corsican club who had to play two "home" matches on a neutral ground because their Stadium was "off limits" for two weeks following some crowd incidents.

Both matches were played at the Parc des Princes, the centrally situated Parisian ground about to undergo a facelift which will transform the "Parc" into an ultra-modern stadium for 50,000 spectators, all under cover.

At the moment only half of the stadium is still standing.

## DEMOLISHED

The entire western section has already been pulled down and the ground presents a weird sight with a huge blue concrete wall temporarily replacing the stands which have been demolished.

The present Parc des Princes now vaguely resembles the Marks Field, with the spectators only on the one side, which, naturally, makes any atmosphere impossible.

Not that atmosphere played any part in the matches I saw.

There were not enough spectators for that!

The Second Division game, on All Saints' Day, a national holiday in France, attracted 583 spectators, and 48 hours later there were only 4,200 to see the two middle-of-the-table First Division clubs.

These figures don't shock Parisians.

They are used to them because soccer is all but extinct in the French capital where excessive taxes, huge traffic jams, and especially tremendous competition in the field of entertainment have forced

this season it's Paris' turn so the French capital's seven million inhabitants have at least the choice of one First Division match every two weeks.

## ADVERTS

A few of the things I noticed at the two matches I saw in Paris:

● For five minutes before the kick-off the P.A. system broadcasts uninterrupted adverts for various products, such as sporting equipment, cigarettes, rain-coats, soft drinks and beer.

● Players emerge from underground dressingrooms situated behind one of the goals.

● They troop onto the field accompanied by recorded music (a lively military march).

● There are no ball boys. On one side, where the demolished western terraces used to be, the concrete wall takes care of any stray balls which just bounce back into play. On the other side, and behind the goal, the ball is brought back into play by, hold it, policemen, who stand all around the pitch between the playing surface and the rows of seats still in existence.

And now a word about the standard of the football.

One word sums it up: terrible!

I know now why Parisians can't be bothered to go to soccer even on the rare occasions the French FA puts on a special promotion for the benefit of the soccer-starved inhabitants of the capital.

The football was pathetic.

So help me, the Second Division match was better than the First Division one.

Actually, there was no difference at all and even a very run-of-the-mill Hakoah, not in particularly great form, would beat either Ajaccio or Nimes.

They are as bad as that! And I was assured by one and all in the Parc des Princes Pressbox that I had not even seen an unusually bad game when both teams have one of those off-days which happen to the best of teams.

That's the way every French First Division team plays these days with the exception of a handful like St. Etienne, Nantes, Bordeaux and Lyon", my French confreres told me with Gallic resignation.

The standard is all but impossible to describe because there just wasn't anything which even faintly resembled football.

## DELIGHT . . .

God knows the Olympic Tournement produced depressing football, but compared to what is obviously the average professional fare served up in France, it was a connoisseur's delight!

I understand better now why the French journalists in Mexico went into raptures over their Olympic team's displays, which I found rather ordinary, with plenty of guts, fighting spirit, but little skill and individual brilliance.

Now if this is the way I feel, and if I can reach this conclusion on French soccer, just think how a Hungarian, English or South American "exile" must feel in Paris.

Is it any wonder the nightclubs are full and the soccer grounds deserted in Paris?

If ever you feel depressed after watching a particularly dull Australian First Division match, console yourself, if you can, by remembering that your fellow soccer lovers in Paris (a fast vanishing breed) are even worse off.

I certainly will. I know some will find it hard to believe, but I actually missed not seeing the Australia Cup final while I was in Paris!

French soccer is as bad as that!

MEXICO 68

## OLIMPIC FLASH-BACK

By: Lou Gautier

## Okano confident of beating Australia

"The greatest day of my life", this is how Japanese coach, Shunishiro Okano, described Japan's sensational 2-0 victory over Mexico in the Olympic play-off for the soccer bronze medal.

The interview room at the Azteca Stadium was packed after Japan's triumph over the hot favorites, Mexico, but Ignacio Trelles, the Mexican manager, today the most reviled sporting figure in Mexico, was conspicuous by his absence.

Okano, usually so quiet and unassuming, was all smiles and had trouble holding back tears of joy.

"You cannot imagine what the bronze medal means to me and to Japanese soccer," he told the 70 journalists from all over the world who gave him a standing ovation as he entered the room.

## DREAMING

"I have never been so thrilled in my life. I just can't believe it's true."

"Fancy Japan beating Mexico at home, and by two clear goals to boot! I must be dreaming!"

Okano said he had only given his team a 30-70 chance of beating Mexico.

"I was prepared for a massive Mexican domination from the kick-off. Consequently I had given the players very strict defensive instructions.

"I'm happy to say they followed my instructions beautifully."

"We were counting solely on Kamamoto in attack. Just

for this match he was told to concentrate on attack and forget about his usual foraging, grafting role.

"This was to be the role of Sugiyama and Mori. As things turned out, our plan worked to perfection.

## SUPPORTERS

"Mexico enjoyed a territorial advantage, but whenever Kamamoto had the ball the Mexican defence was caught flat-footed and Kamamoto swung the match our way with two devastating goals", he added.

Hundreds of Japanese athletes and supporters were at the Azteca to see their countrymen's splendid victory, underlining the impact Japan's soccer team has made on all Japanese.

As Okano said after the match, the bronze medal will give soccer in Japan added impetus.

Though many people are already comparing the Japanese to the North Koreans, Okano, a realist, knows better.

"We still have a lot to learn", he said.

"The Hungarians showed us in the semifinals that we are still far from perfect."

"At the moment Japanese soccer is only in the developing stage. We still have many imperfections to eliminate."

"Our players must learn to vary their game more, and rely less on just the one player, Kamamoto, to bang in the goals."

"However, I'm more hopeful than ever now, with the bronze medal in our keeping, that Japanese soccer will reach world class in the near future."

At the end of the press conference, I had a few words in private with Okano, with whom I developed a "special relationship" during the Games.

Okano said the 1970 World Cup came two years too early for Japan.

He thinks that Japan will only hit the top in four years from now — in time for the Munich Olympics.

Okano, however, is quietly confident Japan will qualify for the 1970 World Cup finals, especially since it appears certain the qualifying round-robin will be staged in Japan.

Okano still recalls vividly his team's three matches in Australia and remembers the ovation the Japanese players received in Melbourne and Adelaide.

"The way the public in most countries we've visited has received us has been tremendous", he confessed.

"We've never met hostile crowds yet, and in Mexico the public was wonderful."

"They supported us in every game and we were made to feel at home. This helped our performances."

Okano would not be drawn into giving his opinion regarding Australia's World Cup chances against Japan.

All he would say is that Japan will have benefited greatly from participating in the Olympics.

"Why didn't Australia try to qualify?", he asked.

"They would have had their chance in any of the other Asian groups as they are vastly superior to Thailand."

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## FRENCH JEERED AS "BAD SPORTS"

For the volatile Mexican soccer fans, France were the villains of the soccer tournament.

France not only trounced Mexico 4-1, but added insult to injury when they refused to have their quarterfinal transferred from Mexico City to Puebla to make room for the Mexico v. Spain match.

To show their displeasure, the Mexicans booed the French players throughout their game against Japan and accorded the Japanese a continuous ovation throughout the match and invaded the pitch to cheer them off after their 3-1 victory.

The French team, on the other hand, was bombarded with various missiles as they left the pitch.

Coach Grillon was so infuriated that he refused to attend the press conference afterwards and cancelled a friendly match against the Vera Cruz XI, creating more anti-French furore.

The Czechoslovaks, the big flops of the tournament, returned home the day after their elimination in the round-robin.

Of all the teams which did not reach the semis, only France, Guatemala, Salvador and Spain stayed in Mexico until the end of the Games.

Spain were the only country to agree to play exhibition matches in country areas.

Israel declined to visit Vera Cruz as they had promised earlier, and would have been fined by FIFA had the Mexican FA not intervened on their behalf.

The Guatemalans are so thrilled at their surprising Olympic displays that they will tour Europe next year.

They've already made arrangements to play in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France, Spain, Yugoslavia and Portugal.

## CRAMER NOTES JAPAN'S BIG PROGRESS

Dettmar Cramer was enthusiastic about Japan's performance in Mexico.

The man to whom Japan owe much of their soccer successes since 1963, said Japan's qualification for the semifinals of the Olympic tournament had made him almost as happy as West Germany's berth in the 1966 World Cup when he was the vice-world champions' assistant-coach.

After Japan's stupendous, merited win over France at the Azteca Stadium, I had a chat with the diminutive German.

Cramer said that Japan improved every time he saw them. And I fully concur with him.

The Japanese team at the Olympics was at least one class better than the side which created such a good impression in Australia earlier this year.

Cramer said he marvelled at the discipline of the Japanese players on the field.

What he didn't say is that he is largely responsible for Japan's exemplary method and cohesion since he is the one who taught the players how to curb their natural Asian penchant for the spectacular.

Cramer, like all other spectators, was in raptures over Kamamoto's display against France.

He summed up most people's feelings when he said the match had almost been a "France v. Kamamoto" contest.

Kamamoto was just stupendous.

Of all the forwards I've seen in action up to the semifinals he was by far the most impressive.

And I'm not the only one to hold this flattering opinion.

All the journalists and the local Mexican press are still running out of superlatives to describe the brilliant Japanese.

Seven months ago, in March, Australia were not that far behind Japan though the Japanese did look the better side even then.

Now they are so far in front of us that it's not even funny.

It is now obvious that unless the Australian team undertakes a rational preparation for the World Cup, we'll suffer against Japan the same fate as in 1965 against North Korea.

If our disgraceful "national team policy" — which is simply non-existent — is to continue, we should forget about the World Cup here and now and save us a lot of money and time.

The result of an Australia v. Japan match at present is too frightening even to contemplate.

It would be 5-0 for Japan without fail. That's how far apart the two sides are at the moment.

Cramer agrees with me, when I put it to him that Japan would trounce Australia on the form the Japanese showed in Mexico. He nodded in assent.

"Australia," he reiterated, "have the soccer talent to achieve some moderate international successes, but as far as organisation and preparation are concerned, you cannot touch the Japanese."

However, even if by some most unlikely miracle Australia were to overcome the formidable Japanese obstacle, we would still have Israel to contend with, not to mention North Korea, should they condescend to step down from their ivory tower — which is very unlikely at this stage, according to FIFA secretary Dr. Kaser who does not think North Korea will field a team in the World Cup eliminations.

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## MELBOURNE PAGE...

EDITED BY BOB LOW

# LATE IMPORTS HELPED TO SAVE JUST'S NECK

Saved from relegation by .110 of a goal, JUST, once the king-pins of Victorian soccer, ended a league season which was nothing short of a nightmare.

Had they had the same team in the first half of the season as they had in the last 11 games and played with the same burning desire to win, they could have at the finish hotly challenged Croatia who finished up as champions.

Consider the following statistics:

- They only got one point from their first 11 games.
- Scored only five goals in their first 11 games.
- Lost 26 goals in their first 11 games.
- Collected 14 points from their last 11 games.
- Scored 26 goals in their last 11 games.
- Lost only 11 goals in their last 11 games.

The two games they lost in the second half of the season were both narrow defeats to Croatia and Wilhelmina.

Big part of the JUST troubles started before the first league ball was kicked when they transferred ace wing-half Frank Micic to South Melbourne Hellas for a reported \$7,000 fee.

The departure of the Victorian and Australian representative player caused an outsize gap in the side and affected them greatly both in defence and attack.

Disagreement with centre-forward Tony Hughes who topped the State League list of individual scorers in 1967 saw him out of the side for most of the season and his presence was badly missed at a time when the

team were struggling to find the net.

Later re-instated, Hughes, like several more of the JUST players, suffered a severe lapse of form and at the half-way mark of the season their position looked almost hopeless.

Sensing that they had to pull up their socks and get some new blood of the top variety into their team to avert a nose-dive, the management speculated highly in bringing three good-class forwards, Slobadan Zoraja, a centre, Branko Bulijevic, an inside-forward and Milan Mihailovich, another forward from Yugoslavia.

### QUICK LIFT

Zoraja and Bulijevic, who had played with OFK Belgrade, and Mihailovich from Vosdovacki, lifted the side from their first appearances and it was not long before they got a rekindled spirit and looked set for a quick climb to safety.

The club at this stage also changed their coach by deposing wing-half Cedo Cirkovic and relegating him to the role of player only and appointing as non-playing coach Ollie Norris.

JUST had to rely heavily on Alexander's result as well as their own in the final league games of the season.

Both were equal on points with the last game to be played with JUST having a narrow superiority in goal average.

## VIC. ROLL CALL

- Ampol Cup winners: Croatia.
- State League champions: Croatia.
- Dockerty Cup winners: Croatia.
- Harry Armstrong Reserve Cup-winners: Slavia.
- Relegated to First Division: Alexander.
- Promoted to State League: Box Hill.
- Federation Cup-winners: Dandenong City.
- Relegated to Second Division: Athena and Moreland.
- Promoted to First Division: Keilor City and Coburg.
- Relegated to Third Division: Brighton and University.
- Promoted to Second Division: Yallourn and Prahran.
- Relegated to Fourth Division: Essendon and South Yarra.
- Promoted to Third Division: Ballarat and Moorabool.
- Bottom pair in Fourth Division: Rosebud and Deer Park.
- Under-18 Cup-winners: Footscray JUST.
- Under-16 Cup-winners: Ardeer.
- Under-14 Cup-winners: Altona.
- State League Reserve Champions: George Cross.
- First Division Reserve Champions: Dandenong City.
- Second Division Reserve Champions: Keilor City.
- Third Division Reserve Champions: Croydon.
- Fourth Division Reserve Champions: Clayton.

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## SOCCER WORLD

## ADELAIDE NEWS

# HONEYMOONING CLUBS BEGIN WELL

— From ALLAN CRISP —

Austria, bolstered by the addition of four Azzurri players, defeated Budapest 3-1 last Saturday to qualify for the Ampol night series.

Budapest won the first leg of the play-off 3-2, so by Austria's largest home victory Austria made the grade on aggregate.

Juventus can hardly be ecstatic about the merger because a second Italian community team in First Division could divide their support.

Azzurri granted transfers to forwards, Campbell Bracken, Dave Howlett and David Lindsay and fullback, Johnny Chiappin and the quartet played significant roles in the victory.

At press time, Austria and Azzurri were due to meet the SA Federation executive who were expected to approve the "marriage."

The clubs agreed to merge and call the new club, Azzurri - Eastern Districts.

Both clubs want Azzurri retained as the main name because Azzurri has larger support.

There can be no doubt that Saturday's "honeymoon" was a great success.

The new combination played brilliantly to score twice in the first 17 minutes.

### Change in promotion

Last Saturday's Ampol Cup elimination game between Second Division premiers, Budapest and eighth placed First Division side Austria, will be the last of its type.

The executive has endorsed a recommendation that the seven top First Division teams and the top promoted team from 1969 will take part in the 1970 night series.

It was also resolved that promotion and relegation be one up and one down, beginning in 1971.

After screening, it was decided that Wakefield Wanderers be promoted to Second Division and Don United be relegated to Third Division.

Salisbury United will be promoted to Second Division, subject to their complying with the requirements for spectator fence, and Windsor Athletic relegated to Third Division.

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Falconer Newsagent, Collins Street (near Spencer Street).

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# SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

The first senior post-graduate coaching seminar ever held in Australia will be staged in January. The venue will be either Sydney or Newcastle. About 24 senior coaches will live in for a week and hear lectures on the latest tactical, medical and other aspects of soccer. The course will be arranged by the Australian Coaches Federation. Most of the cost of \$4000 will be put up by the Rothmans Sports Foundation. Rothmans will also underwrite some of the expenses of a coaching manual and film, both produced by the increasingly active ACF.

These are the new officers of the NSW Federation of SOCCER COACHES: President — W. Vrolyks; senior vice president — A. McLaughlin; junior vice president — W. Stoevelaar, D. Wardell, J. Venglos, D. Holden; secretary-treasurer — H. Preece; assistant secretary — C. Campbell; auditor — W. de St. Croix; publicity officer — W. Hughes; coaching course secretary — H. Preece; assistant coaching course secretary — C. Campbell; director of coaching — J. Venglos. Members of the management committee: T. Cooper, R. Pearce, J. Marston, R. Lord, A. Clues, S. Viskovich, J.

Martin, M. Mazina, P. Van Ryan, D. Adrigan was elected as Soccer Coaching Academy organising officer.

Summer training will start this week at MANLY and the AGM of the club will be held on Friday, November 22.

BRIAN LEONARDS, Auburn's active secretary for the past 12 months has tendered his resignation after some disagreement with other members of the club's committee. He will carry on with the job until Auburn's AGM

which will be held on Thursday, November 21.

At the Annual General Meeting of the NSW Federation of Soccer Referees, ALAN HALLS has been re-elected president for his third term. Laurie Smith is the secretary and the treasurer is Neal McHugh. Bill Jamieison was elected vice president in place of Norm Headland.

Energetic NSW Amateur secretary, DAVID CHILDS, recently appointed to take over as full-time Northern Soccer League secretary, has

not yet resigned as secretary of the NSW Amateur Association. Speculation is rife that he may be able to carry on this position from Newcastle.

Since winning promotion, AUBURN had negotiations of some sort with at least 11 players, mostly interstate and overseas. Two of these played for New Zealand last year.

MANLY WARRINGAH Soccer Association Ltd. has been formed and will be the organisation to handle an application in due course for a liquor licence for the Manly-Warringah soccer district.

Pan Hellenic secretary, ALEX GEORGIU, is in England busily searching for players.

CROATIA may buy two forwards to replace Giles and Wright, both of whom will return to Newcastle.

LEO WILSON has been made life member of the NSW Federation of Soccer Referees.

Newly-elected president of Eastern Suburbs Association, HARRY GULLY, is likely to take over as secretary following the resignation of L. Hoy.

Marconi have officially changed their name to MARCONI-FAIRFIELD.

## Second Division reviewed

# MARCONI ARE MOVING AHEAD

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

In their second year in Second Division, Marconi-Fairfield Soccer Club have made remarkable progress to finish sixth and with an ounce of luck, could have made the semifinals.

Marconi started slowly and rather unimpressively but as the season progressed, the side improved and in the late phases developed into a skilful, tough opponent capable of turning the tables on the elite teams of the Division.

As a matter of fact Marconi did collect some valuable points by beating Western Suburbs and Bankstown and were unlucky not to take both points from promoted Auburn in a tense battle which finished in a 2-2 draw.

However, the success of Marconi was greatly influenced by two administrative factors which were wisely implemented during the season.

One was the appointment of Marcello Svoronich as full-time coach which contributed in no small way to create cohesion and understanding so essential in a successful combination.

The other was no doubt the \$700 investment last June for the transfer of Chris Martin, the former Crystal Palace forward from Croatia who made a big impact and proved to be the missing link in the forwards.

Since their debut in Second Division in 1967, Mar-

coni have always seemed to lack punch in the forwards despite the fact that their defence, led by centre-half Miani, was one of the best in the business.

And this was demonstrated once again last season as the team conceded only 22 goals which was second best only to promoted Auburn.

It was in the forwards department that the weakness was most evident with only 38 goals scored and this number was considerably boosted with the inclusion of Martin half-way through the season.

With careful and ambitious planning for next season, Marconi are determined to solve this problem.

Although at the moment everything is under covers, it is almost certain that the recently elected committee would shortly finalise negotiations for the signing of three more forwards from the First Division ranks.

The club is prepared to go a long way to ensure that these boys will be wearing the Marconi colors next season, giving them a head-start in the promotion race in 1969.

Luckily, the Marconi Social Club has been more gener-

ous this year than previously and has provided funds to finance urgent improvements at Marconi Oval which includes the fencing of the outside and the playing field, the installation of floodlights to make the ground suitable for night soccer and other improvements to the surface all of which involves the tidy expenditure of about \$20,000.

Marconi had their annual meeting recently and apart from electing a new committee, many other items with a bearing on the future of the club were put for discussion by members.

One event of importance to supporters that has emerged from the meeting was that after years of sterling service to the club, former president, Joe Morzzi, was only elected as a common member of the committee.

The top three men on the committee are: president, Carlo Zaccariotto; secretary, Ron Cavagnino and treasurer, J. Cejka.

As it stands, Norths have to beg and borrow enough grounds for junior Saturday morning games, and have to switch some youngsters' games to Saturday afternoon, which is definitely not as convenient.

This should be remedied by the Council without any delay.

In 1968, due to a surplus of under-18 teams North of the Harbour, North's teams, Chatswood RSL and Northbridge, entered in South of the Harbour.

The former won the competition, and then the play-off with the North winners.

A long lay-off probably ruined their chances in the "Champion of Champions" competitions.

The Association is proud of young Peter White, who was a big asset to the NSW Amateur under-16 team on its September New Zealand tour.

Similarly, Artarmon's win in the Inter-Suburban First Division and in the introductory NSW Amateur Cup showed that in time the district will improve its status in senior football.

This year the Armenian club, Homenetmen, won the A grade.

Other grade winners were:

U/16: Greenwich.  
U/15: North Ryde.  
U/14: Balmain RSL.  
U/13 1: Fivedock.  
U/13 2: Balmain RSL.  
U/12 1: Concord.  
U/12 2: Fivedock.  
U/11 1: APIA.  
U/11 2: APIA.  
U/10 1: APIA.  
U/10 2: Greenwich.  
U/9 1: Concord.  
U/9 2: Concord.  
U/8 1: APIA.  
U/8 2: Balmain RSL.  
U/8 3: Leichhardt Police Boys.

## WITH THE AMATEURS

# Norths had great year

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Northern Suburbs, one of Sydney's longest established junior Associations, enjoyed one of their best seasons, if not their very best.

## WEST REACH CENTURY

When Wests kick-off next season they will have well over 100 teams for the first time.

This year the figure stood at 91; 86 district competition teams, and under-14, 15, 16, 18 and 21 years representative teams also playing each week.

For 1968, the big success of the season was one of the new clubs, Balmain RSL.

Starting the club with eight teams, they pulled off four premierships.

Strathfield was also there for the first time, and went particularly well.

They should be a much bigger club again next year.

Strathfield Council made a ground available in Strathfield Park, which gave the club a home right from the kick-off.

Secretary Clarrie Fredericks has no doubt that the ball is now really rolling for Wests, and says that even the incoming committee may be surprised at the extent to which the Association bounds ahead in the new year.

Once again the "Big Three" were Concord (18 teams), APIA (14 teams) and Fivedock (12 teams).

New clubs will be welcome at the Western Suburbs AGM to be held at the Leichhardt Police Boys' Club, Norton Street, Leichhardt on Tuesday, November 26.

Wests have been fortunate since their inception in 1959 in their choice of officials.

No one has done more than the president, Reg Dowton, who has also greatly assisted soccer and other sports in his employment in the Police Boys movement.

One interesting feature for 1969 will be whether Wests again link up their competitions with Northern Suburbs or not.

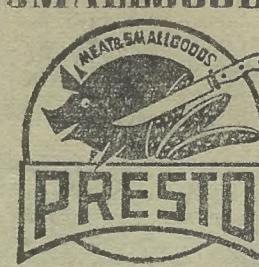
Last year Wests had more than a fair measure of success in the more senior grades of representative football.

The all-age team won the Metropolitan championships and only lost to Tamworth in the State final.

The under-21s won the Metropolitan KO, and the under-16s and 15s the District Representative KO.

1968 WINNERS  
U/16: APIA.  
U/15: North Ryde.  
U/14: Balmain RSL.  
U/13 1: Fivedock.  
U/13 2: Balmain RSL.  
U/12 1: Concord.  
U/12 2: Fivedock.  
U/11 1: APIA.  
U/11 2: APIA.  
U/10 1: APIA.  
U/10 2: Greenwich.  
U/9 1: Concord.  
U/9 2: Concord.  
U/8 1: APIA.  
U/8 2: Balmain RSL.  
U/8 3: Leichhardt Police Boys.  
U/7 1: St. Columba's.  
U/7 2: Balmain RSL.

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Mr. John Sammut, The Secretary,  
4 Angus Place, Bushy, Liverpool. Tel 607-7277



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